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Spring Sports Preview
Inside

THE RED OAK

Express

WEDNESDAY

April 5, 2023

Red Oak, IA

Volume 156, No.14

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Montgomery County Community Foundation Advisory Board Members pictured include front row, from left: Marty Barnett, Tammie Bodwell, Jenna Ramsey, and Sunni Kamp, foundation director. Back row, from left: Brian LeRette, Secretary/Treasurer; Kevin Britten, Chair; and Kim Robinson, Vice Chair. (Photo submitted)

MCCF awards \$140,932 to 19 county non-profits

Submitted by MCCF

Members of the Montgomery County Community Foundation (MCCF), working in partnership with the Red Oak Heritage Foundation, recently awarded \$140,932 to Montgomery County nonprofit organizations and community projects during its Spring 2023 Grant Cycle.

The following organizations are Spring 2023 Grant Recipients:

- City of Elliott: Elliott Hillside Cemetery fence project, \$2,500.
- City of Villisca: basement door replacement, \$2,000.
- Montgomery County Agricultural Society: banquet tables and storage racks, \$5,000.
- Montgomery County Child Development Association, Inc.: gym partition and desktop computer, \$2,800.
- Montgomery County Conservation: Nature Center updates, \$10,000.
- Montgomery County Family YMCA: low impact cardiovascular equipment, \$5,300.
- Montgomery County Veterans Memorial Court of Honor: salute rifles for military burials \$5,000.
- Ms Tara's Daycare: cement work, \$6,000.
- Project Porchlight: backpacks for kids, \$3,750.
- Red Oak Grand Theatre, Inc.: new seating and floor replacement, \$20,000.
- Red Oak Music Boosters: piano project: \$18,000.
- Red Oak Park and Tree Board: fountain square park stage/bandstand electricity, \$3,000.
- Red Oak Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association,

Inc.: wildland/firefighting vehicle, \$13,917.

- Save Our Depot, Inc: ceiling fans; interior wall painting, \$6,000.
- Stanton Child Resource Center: outdoor playground and classroom, \$20,000.
- Stanton Historical Society: basement lighting, \$2,000.
- Stanton Viking Center: youth sports equipment, \$4,000.
- Villisca Community Schools - Enarson Elementary: junior kindergarten classroom, \$5,865.
- Wilson Performing Arts Center: caulking, tuck-pointing, and mortar replacement, \$5,000.

All grantees met the criteria as Montgomery County nonprofit agencies or organizations with charitable missions supporting community needs in the areas of civic engagement, culture, health, education, and social services. Only organizations providing services in Montgomery County were eligible to apply.

The MCCF is an affiliate of the Omaha Community Foundation, which meets National Standards for Community Foundations, and is one of nine county members of the Community Foundations of Southwest Iowa.

It receives funds annually from the State of Iowa County Endowment Fund Program for endowment building and grant making throughout the county. This cycle of grants was made possible through the County Endowment Fund Program and is funded by a percentage of the state's commercial gaming tax revenue, which is distributed annually to participat-

MCCF, Page 2A

Moore, Shipley hold final coffee event



Rep. Tom Moore, center, speaks with Danny Robertson, left, and Larry Brandstetter during the final legislative coffee at the Montgomery County Family YMCA on April 1. (Nick Johansen/The Red Oak Express)

Nick Johansen
The Red Oak Express

A crowd of roughly 20 residents from in and around the Red Oak community attended the final legislative coffee of the year at the Montgomery County Family YMCA in Red Oak April 1.

Iowa Rep. Tom Moore said since the last legislative coffee March 4, the Iowa House has been working quickly to get bills passed and sent over to the Iowa Senate.

The Iowa House passed a carbon pipeline bill setting a 90% threshold for eminent domain in regards to carbon pipeline projects, and extra provisions to aid farmers and landowners in recouping losses. Moore said the vote was a tough one.

"It doesn't matter whether you're for or against the pipeline, it was tough. We were looking at private property rights on one side, and the economic stability of Iowa on the other side," Moore said. "Everybody that grows corn gets an enhanced corn price when they take corn to an ethanol plant. It all came down to weighing what was important as far as the public good. I voted for the bill, choosing the side of the landowner and private property rights over the benefits of the ethanol and pipeline industry."

The senate failed to pick up the bill, and Moore said the bill is dead for the current legislative session.

Sen. Tom Shipley said in the Iowa Senate,

a bill has been advanced that will update the state's current safe haven law.

"If someone wants to give up their baby at birth, the change will allow them to take it to an adoption agency right off the bat. There have been two tragic cases in Iowa where the baby was abandoned and the child died. This opens it up to adoption agencies, and they have to follow the same state procedures," commented Shipley.

During the question and answer session, the lawmakers were asked about the state's tax burden. Moore said the Iowa legislature was taking steps to reduce Iowan's taxes.

"Over the next five years we're graduating down to a 3.9% flat tax for everyone. We've gotten rid of the inheritance tax, and retirement income is no longer taxed in Iowa," Moore stated. "We've got property tax bills in the House and Senate we're working on. Some of them are problematic and have issues we need to work out, but we're working to lower property taxes as well. Currently, there is \$3.2 billion in the Taxpayer Relief Fund that may be used to reduce the flat tax rate beyond 3.9% to 2.5% or lower. But we're working on improving the tax burden on Iowans."

Ultimately, Moore said the legislature had to weigh services and tax relief and come up with the best way to bring them both together. Also, he felt the state couldn't reduce property taxes and have local schools, cities, and counties be strapped for financing because of that.

The question was also raised as to whether

LEGISLATIVE, Page 8A

Council takes no action on municipal trash/recycling proposals

Nick Johansen
The Red Oak Express

After lengthy discussion, the Red Oak City Council chose to take no action on an agenda item seeking proposals for curbside trash and recycling collection.

The discussion was raised after the council approved a price increase from Batten Sanitation for servicing the five recycling bins in the community, at a cost of \$3,750 per

month through June 30. Red Oak Mayor Shawna Silvius said with the increase in rates, now was the time to look at potential municipal service agreements for trash and recycling and seeking proposals, in an effort to help in cleaning up the community.

Batten Sanitation vice president Lynette Bruce was in attendance at the meeting, and highlighted Batten's 40 years of service with the Red Oak community. Bruce said she doubted a local bid would compete with

an outsider to the community.

"Batten Sanitation does not want to give up, but we cannot compete with a big corporation. However, you're not going to get the personal care a small town business gives, and having spoken with other communities that hired outside collection for the lowest bid, they've been rudely treated and surprised at how the prices went up," Bruce explained. "Please give careful consideration and some time into making a decision like this, and allow us to have the oppor-

tunity to help the community with the decision."

Bruce added the reason for the increase in their recycling rates is because there's no market for it, and they are charging \$100 per load for dumping the city's five recycling bins, and each of the five bins was emptied once per week.

Councilperson Brian Bills questioned the need for curbside recycling, as the global demand has diminished.

"If there's no global demand for recycling materials, and it

costs us more to dispose of them, I wonder whether we're doing the right thing in pursuing municipal recycling. I am all for recycling, but not if we're just spinning our wheels and spending our money," Bills commented.

As for municipal garbage service, Councilperson Jeanice Lester said the conversation of a mandate for trash pick up had been discussed, but the conversations did not go well and no action was taken.

Bruce advised the council

that whether or not the city chose to have municipal garbage collection and recycling, it wouldn't cure laziness, and those who didn't want to clean up, still would not.

Silvius countered that in the communities that she spoke to and lived in that had municipal garbage clean-up, it did help clean up those communities, because the residents had to take out their garbage.

Bruce said she would assist

COUNCIL, Page 8A

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Supervisor Peterson explains changes to SWIA MHDS

Nick Johansen
The Red Oak Express

County representation on the Southwest Iowa Mental Health and Disability Services Region may be changing.

At the regular board of supervisors meeting March 28, supervisor Mark Peterson, who sits on the board, shared an update on the balance of the board that he felt the public should be made aware of.

“We have nine counties on that board, so there are nine supervisors on the board. There is a bill that is expected to pass the Iowa legislature that says the board will be less than 50% representation by county supervisors,” Peterson explained. “The other members on our board now are people that work for mental health providers, or are family members of those that receive the services.”

With nine supervisors on the board, they would have to add 10 members of other organizations to put the acting supervisors at less than 50%. Peterson said the board felt a 19 member board would be cumbersome.

“As of now, rather than adding to the board, they’re planning on dropping the number of supervisors to a total of six, and the hope is that provid-

ers will come from the counties that aren’t represented by a supervisor,” Peterson commented.

While discussions are currently underway, Peterson added that none of the members of the board are happy about the potential change.

“To me, it seems to be a situation of the state meddling more in local control. While there is unhappiness, it almost sounds like it’s a given that the bill is going to pass. It’s discouraging, and I don’t understand what the goal is. I know Supervisor Mike Olson went through a similar situation with the juvenile detention board in Pottawattamie County,” Peterson said.

Peterson also stated the organization has a budget formula that forced the agency to spend down its money, or run the risk of receiving less money the next fiscal year.

“It’s ridiculous, and it’s a very strange formula. They have good projects in mind and it will go to good causes, but they may not have spent that much if the state didn’t require them to do so in order to get the necessary funding next fiscal year,” advised Peterson.

Robinson said the changes with the mental health system in the state have been very confusing over the past five years, and asked if it may be due to a fight between urban areas versus rural areas.

Peterson felt that it could be influencing the

situation, and he was interested to see how the voted went on the bills. Peterson said he was also planning on discussing the issues with the county’s legislative representatives, Rep. Tom Moore and Sen. Tom Shipley.

Supervisor Donna Robinson also shared an update on activity at Montgomery County Public Health. At a recent meeting with coordinator Samantha Beeson and Crystal Berkey, who is running the general assistance office, input was sought on the direction the county wanted the office to proceed.

“They may be changing some of the ways the money is paid out from the general assistance office, and so myself and Supervisors Chair Mike Olson visited with them and so there may be some minor changes coming in the next fiscal year,” Robinson said. “Otherwise, things are going very well, and being enforced, and the changes that have already been made have been going smoothly.”

Robinson also participated in a Montgomery County Public Health meeting, and said the homemaker program through MCMH is full.

“There was discussion at the end of the meeting about the homemaker program, which is one of the divisions of public health. They’re looking to make some changes to a sliding fee for the program. There was also a lot of discussion on the

criteria to qualify for it. They’re trying to fine tune some things within that department, and we appreciate the efforts that they’re making,” Robinson commented.

Robinson also praised the efforts of the general assistance office, stating they have made a huge savings to the county with the way they are doing things through the office.

Robinson also sits on the Southwest Iowa Planning Council, which oversees the Southwest Iowa Transit Authority, and said one of the biggest actions at the meeting was approval of the purchase of a new bus, due to an accident involving one of the agencies buses.

“SWIPCO was involved in an accident about a month ago, and the bus still has not been released back to the agency. We approved an expenditure of close to \$53,000 for a similar, pre-owned bus to be purchased,” commented Robinson.

Also, while some agencies are seeing a decrease in people using buses statewide since COVID-19 affected the state, SWIPCO’s passenger numbers are up.

“Since COVID-19 hit, SWIPCO has given more than 100,000 rides, and they are leading in the state, I believe. SWIPCO and SWITA are doing a tremendous job for the area, and they are a well-oiled machine,” stated Robinson.

Demolition planned for 4 Red Oak properties through SWIHTF

Nick Johansen
The Red Oak Express

The Southwest Iowa Housing Trust Fund (SWIHTF) Board recently approved four applications submitted by the city of Red Oak for the demolition program.

The program, which is funded through SWIHTF, is designed to assist cities with the cost of demolition of blighted, residential properties.

SWIHTF will pay 50% of the cost, up to \$15,000, for demolition of the city owned properties. Over the past seven years, the trust fund and partnering cities have demolished 37 dilapidated houses that were beyond repair.

All cities within the SWIHTF region of Cass, Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Montgomery, Page, and Shelby counties can apply at any time. The SWIHTF Board meets quarterly to review, score, and approve the applications.

Scoring criteria includes:

- The city utilized the grant last year.
- An asbestos inspection has been completed.
- The condition of the building/collapse, inherent danger of the property, impact on the neighborhood, and plans for the space after demolition.

Red Oak Mayor Shawna Silvius said the removal of dilapidated buildings remains a high priority of the City of Red Oak.

“When I visit our schools, civic organizations and with people in the community, one of their main concerns is the extent of dilapidated and dangerous properties within the community which greatly detract from the beauty of our hometown,” said Silvius. “As mayor, knowing how many properties are now the city’s, I am driven to lead by example. Growing property valuations is essential to improve our tax base, and housing is one of our most critical needs.”

Silvius added that one of the biggest benefits to this program is that it allows for cities to promote beautification initiatives that will build communities where families choose to live and businesses choose to locate.

“Eliminating our nuisance lots and thinking

out of the box to redevelop areas, whether infill housing or redeveloped blocks using tiny home concepts to 3-D printed concrete houses, or creating other community garden, splash pad or river front/park-type amenities, we can literally rejuvenate dying areas of town into something bright and beautiful,” commented Silvius.

Southwest Iowa Housing Trust Fund continues to accept applications for its Demolition Program for projects in Cass, Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Montgomery, Page and Shelby counties.

For questions or to request/send an application, contact Sandy Hansen at 243-4196 or email sandy.hansen@swipco.org.

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TALK

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Talk to your healthcare provider about your sex life and ask **what STI tests** you should be getting and **how often**.

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If you're not comfortable talking to your regular provider about STIs, find a clinic that provides confidential testing that is free or low cost.

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Ask about **partner services** to get your partner tested and treated.

Avoid having sex until you and your sex partner both **complete treatment**.

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MCCF

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

ing community foundations associated with counties without a state-issued gaming license.

The MCCF works with individuals, families, businesses, and organizations to create permanent and expendable funds that address changing, vital community needs and interests.

To inquire about donating to the MCCF, please contact the Community Foundations of Southwest Iowa staff or any board member listed below. Gifts to permanently endowed funds through the MCCF

may be eligible to receive a 25% Endow Iowa Tax Credit.

Advisory board members of the MCCF are Chair, Kevin Britten of Red Oak; Vice Chair, Kim Robinson of Red Oak; Secretary/Treasurer, Brian LeRette of Red Oak; Marty Barnett of Red Oak; Dennis D. Bloom of Red Oak; Tammie Bodwell of Villisca; Christine Johnson of Red Oak; Jenna Ramsey of Stanton; and John Tischer of Elliott.

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CHARLES DAVIS, 85

Charles L Davis, 85, of Boulder, Colo., passed away peacefully in his home March 26, 2023.

Chuck was born Aug. 11, 1937, and graduated with the Emerson High School class of 1955. He was a long time employee of AT&T systems.

Chuck is survived by his wife of 63 years, Sherry Lee (Smith) Davis of Boulder, Colo., along with numerous relatives and friends.

Services were arranged by after.com of Arvada, Colo.



FRANCELIA “FRANKIE” BOWDEN, 97

Francelia (Frankie) P. Bowden, 97, Independence, passed away March 26, 2023.

Francelia was born on April 6, 1925 in Independence, the daughter of Charles Leslie and Ruth (Holmes) Hall.

Frankie was proceeded in death by her husband, Arnold (Arn), son, Jerome, and her parents.

Survivors include her sons, Wynn of Davenport; Grant of Natchitoches, La.; nine grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Frankie has been cremated, and a celebration of her life will take place in June in Backbone State Park after interment of her ashes in the family plot in Lamont.

Memorials in honor of Frankie may be sent to the Northeast Iowa Food Bank, P.O. Box 2397, Waterloo, IA 50704.

ENRIQUETA RAMIREZ, 88

Enriqueta Ramirez, 88, Red Oak, passed away Saturday, April 1, 2023, in Red Oak.

Enriqueta Cuellar Ramirez, the daughter of Luis and Eufemia (Maldonado) Cuellar, was born July 15, 1934, at Del Rio, Texas.

Enriqueta was preceded in death by her parents; and husband, Flavio Ramirez, Sr.

Enriqueta is survived by three children, Rebecca Ramirez White of Red Oak; Flavio Ramirez, Jr. of San Jose, Calif.; and Virginia “Genie” Butcher of Loveland, Colo.; nine grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren, and five great-great-grandchildren.

May God bless her memory and give strength to those who mourn.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at sldfuneralhome.com.

Sellergren-Lindell-DeMarce Funeral Home is in charge of Enriqueta’s arrangements and serving her family.

MARY LINFOR, 53

Mary Ella Linfor, 53, Red Oak, passed away Friday, March 31, 2023, at Immanuel Medical Center in Omaha, Neb.

Mary was born Sept. 22, 1969, in Shenandoah, the daughter of John and Vickie (Mutchler) Linfor.

Preceding her in death were her parents.

A memorial visitation will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. Friday, April 7, 2023, at the Nelson-Boylan-LeRette Funeral Chapel. Memorials are suggested to the family.

BONNIE WILLIAMS, 95

Bonnie Mae Williams, 95, Red Oak, formerly of Silver City, passed away Sunday, April 2, 2023, at the Montgomery County Memorial Hospital.

Bonnie was born May 31, 1927, in Waveland Township of Pottawattamie County, near Elliott, the daughter of Glen and Edith (Johnson) Talbott.

Preceding her in death were her parents; and her husband, Darrell Williams.

Survivors include her daughter, Vicki Williams of Griswold; son, Bill Williams of Red Oak; seven grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at Nelson-Boylan-LeRette Funeral Chapel. Burial will be in the Silver City Cemetery at Silver City.

JERRY DAFFER, 62

Jerry Dean Daffer, 62, Red Oak, passed away unexpectedly at his home, after an extended illness, on Friday, March 31, 2023.

Jerry was born Dec. 6, 1960, in Nebraska City, Neb., the son of Gary and Sharon (Goings) Daffer. His parents were divorced, and he was raised by his step-father, Robert Wilson. Jerry graduated from Red Oak High School and joined the U.S. Army. He served nine years as a crew chief on helicopters. Jerry always looked forward to returning to his little town of Red Oak. These last years, he operated Daffer Home Improvement.


Jerry was united in marriage to Ronda Von Dielingen on March 14, 2013, in Red Oak. They made their home in Red Oak. Jerry enjoyed golfing, telling stories and spending time with friends and family.

Preceding him in death were his father, Gary Daffer; his step-father, Robert Wilson; daughter, Kristi Kay Daffer; and grandparents.

Survivors include his wife, Ronda Daffer of Red Oak; mother, Sharon Wilson of Red Oak; children, Mikala Wilkening and husband John of Clarinda; Michelle Daffer and Matt Yates of Phoenix, Ariz.; Tom Daffer and wife Alex of Red Oak; and Hilary Boos and husband Ben of Omaha, Neb.; step-children, Cole Norris and wife Georgeanne of Columbus, Ind.; and Adam Ganley and wife Candice of Ft. Drum, N.Y.; 15 grandchildren; brothers, Mark Daffer and wife Melinda of Amboy, Ill.; Dan Wilson and wife Katrina of St. Cloud, Minn.; David Wilson of Red Oak; and Jim Daffer and wife Lori of Auburn, Neb.; sister-in-law, Marta Goodrich and husband Don of Red Oak; brothers-in-law, Ed Von Dielingen and partner Wilma of Red Oak and Ron Von Dielingen and wife Stacey of Newton; and other relatives and many friends.

A graveside memorial celebration of life was held Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at Evergreen Cemetery with military honors. Memorials are suggested to the family to be designated at a later date.

Nelson-Boylan-LeRette Funeral Chapel is in charge of arrangements.




MERLYN HALE, 73

Merlyn Lucinda Hale, 73, Red Oak, passed away, Friday, March 31, 2023, at the Montgomery County Memorial Hospital.

Funeral services are pending at the Nelson-Boylan-LeRette Funeral Chapel.

Law and Order



The following events were filed with the Red Oak, Montgomery County, State of Iowa, or other government offices. In regard to law enforcement and judicial activities, all parties are presumed innocent until proven guilty, and other details may be available at iowacourts.state.ia.us.

REAL ESTATE

WARRANTY DEED

- Dwayne Adams, Manager President, D C LLC and DC LLC to Adrian Gaunt, Red Oak Original Plat Blk 67 Lt 3.
- Laura Johnson, Oatis Johnson, and Randy Johnson to Kelli Gregerson, Red Oak Thompson’s Addition Lt 17.

TRUSTEE’S DEED

- Judith Fabian Trust, and Judith Fabian, Trustee, to Paul and Clay Ogden, 19-72-37.

COURT OFFICER’S DEED

- Beverlyn Landhuis Estate, Belinda DeBolt, Co-Executor,

and Bradley Landhuis, Co-Executor, to Belinda and Alan DeBolt, 36-72-37.

MORTGAGE

- Jeffrey Fastenau to PCSB, 25-71-38.

MOD/AMENDMENT OF MORTGAGE

- Jo Gallagher to First Interstate Bank, 23-72-38.
- Anthony and Cassandra Decker to Bank Iowa, Red Oak Original Plat Blk 58 Lts 5-6.
- Juan Batula to Midstates Bank NA, Red Oak Original Plat Blk 16 Lt 1.

SMALL CLAIMS

- Credit Bureau Services of IA Inc. vs. Miranda Meier, Red Oak, judgment default in favor of the plaintiff, \$3,766.37 with 7.22% interest from March 28, plus costs.
- LVNV Funding LLC vs. Krista Straight, Red Oak, judgment default in favor of the plaintiff, \$1,478.06 with 7.22% interest from March 28, plus costs.
- LVNV Funding LLC vs. Cassandra Redd, Red Oak, judgment default in favor of the plaintiff, \$1,236.94 with 7.22% interest from March 28, plus costs.
- LVNV Funding LLC vs. James Gilvin, Villisca, judgment default in favor of the plaintiff, \$740.10 with 7.22% interest from

March 28, plus costs.

ARRESTS

- Filed March 28, Wyatt Sargent, 27, Council Bluffs, driving while suspended 14 times, \$491.25.
- Filed March 30, Curtis Frazee, 40 Hastings, OWI second offense, \$2,000 bond.
- Filed April 3, Jacob Dykes-Vargas, 37, Council Bluffs, possession of controlled substance - methamphetamine third offense, Pottawattamie county warrant for violation of probation, \$10,000 bond.
- Filed April 3, David Clark, 43, Red Oak, domestic abuse assault first offense, held on no bond.
- Filed April 4, Kaiden Schooling, 18, Red Oak, simple assault two counts, possession of drug paraphernalia, public intoxication, disorderly conduct - fighting, \$300 bond.

DISMISSED

- Aggravated, State of Iowa vs. Ashley Fitzwater, 24, Villisca, child endangerment, dismissed, possession of a controlled substance - methamphetamine, first offense, dismissed.

- Felony, State of Iowa vs. Chad Padilla, 22, Red Oak, interference with official acts inflicts serious injury, dismissed.
- Simple misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Michael Graham, 50, Villisca, theft fifth degree, four counts, dismissed.

CRIMINAL

- Aggravated, State of Iowa vs. Ashley Fitzwater, 24, Red Oak, child endangerment, deferred judgment, two years, \$855 fine, two years probation, DNA requirement.
- Aggravated, State of Iowa vs. Markus Johnson, 47, Red Oak, possession of controlled substance second offense, pled guilty, 90 days jail, suspended, \$855 fine, suspended.
- Aggravated, State of Iowa vs. James Shirley, 44, Red Oak, driving while barred.
- Felony, State of Iowa vs. Chad Padilla, 22, Red Oak, interference with official acts inflicts bodily injury, pled guilty, 60 days jail, 20 days suspended, time served, \$855 fine, nine months probation.
- Simple misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Hannah Dahlberg, 18, Red Oak, possession of drug paraphernalia, pled guilty, \$150 fine.
- Simple misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Austin Thompson, 24, Red Oak, possession of drug paraphernalia.
- Simple misdemeanor, State

- State of Iowa vs. Michael Graham, 50, Villisca, theft fifth degree, pled guilty, \$105 fine.
- Simple misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Jose Portales, 20, Red Oak, possession of drug paraphernalia.
- Simple misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Destiny Watson, 26, Red Oak, domestic abuse assault - first offense.
- Simple misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Christopher Birdtail, 25, Red Oak, domestic abuse assault - first offense.
- Serious misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Richard Linfor, 55, Shenandoah, driving while license denied or revoked.
- Serious misdemeanor, State of Iowa vs. Kenneth Rhamy, 57, Red Oak, possession of a controlled substance - methamphetamine, first offense, pled guilty, \$430 fine.

OWI

- State of Iowa vs. Amanda Cacek, 32, Maryville, Mo., first offense, deferred judgment, nine months, \$1,250 fine, nine months informal probation, complete drug and alcohol evaluation.
- State of Iowa vs. Cole Thornton, 19, Red Oak, first offense, pled guilty, deferred judgment, nine months, nine months probation, \$1,250 fine, half waived if produces valid driver’s license.
- State of Iowa vs. Claire Thalken, 36, Emerson, first

- Jesse Larosee, Omaha, Neb., no valid driver’s license.
- Morgan Bear, Danville, Ind., speeding.
- Bobbie Gray, Omaha, Neb., speeding, no valid driver’s license, registration violation.
- Madelaine Newquist, Shenandoah, registration violation.
- Scott Kaas, Cedar Rapids, speeding.
- Maria Granillo Cruz, Omaha, Neb., speeding.
- Scott Tracey, Tescott, Kan., speeding.
- Tanya Patterson, Coin, speeding.
- Charles Middleton, Omaha, Neb., speeding.
- Theresa McBride, Council Bluffs, speeding.
- Jack Nevius, Corning, speeding.
- Timothy Roehl, Blaine, Minn., speeding.
- Erica Gerrond, Lawrence, Kan., speeding.
- Rubisel Hernandez Barcenas, Omaha, Neb., speeding, no valid driver’s license.
- Levi Pancake, Syracuse, N.Y., speeding.
- Penny Griggs, driving while license denied, suspended, cancelled, or revoked.

TRAFFIC

Yard and Garden: Prepare your garden tools for spring

From ISU Extension


With spring around the corner, now is the time to clean up the garden shed and prepare tools and supplies for the gardening season. In this article, horticulturists with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach offer information on how to clean, sanitize, sharpen and prepare your garden tools for spring.

How do I clean and sanitize plant containers for reuse?

Reusing plastic, clay and other containers is a great way to save money and reduce plastic waste going into landfills. Plastic plant containers cannot be recycled in traditional single-stream home recycling programs and, unfortunately, programs to collect and recycle plastic plant containers are not common. It is important to clean and disinfect old pots each time you use them. Disease-causing fungi and other organisms, including insects, can remain in old containers and infect the new plants potted in them.

To disinfect the pots, use a stiff brush or rag to remove all the loose soil particles. Soak the container in a solution containing one part household bleach to nine parts water for a minimum of 10 minutes. Then wash pots in soapy water (dish detergent works great) and rinse clean.

Mineral deposits can frequently form around the upper inside rim of the pot near the soil line. Remove this mineral deposit from pots with a scouring pad. Tough-to-remove deposits can be scraped away with a knife. Smooth any rough edges with steel wool. Rinse the pot and it is ready for reuse.




is important to prevent the spread of disease issues. At minimum, when removing disease-infected plant material, pruners should be disinfected between plants. Ideally, pruners should be disinfected between each cut.

Always start by removing dirt, sap and other debris from pruning equipment before disinfecting.

A 10% solution of household chlorine bleach prepared by adding one part bleach to nine parts water can be used for disinfecting pruning blades. The solution should be used within two hours of mixing, and the tool should be soaked for at least 10 minutes in the sun.

One of the easiest ways to sanitize pruning equipment is to use ethanol or isopropyl alcohol. To sanitize with alcohol, wipe or dip the tool into the alcohol. No prolonged soaking is needed. Rubbing alcohol (70% isopropyl alcohol) and ethanol can be readily purchased from most drug stores and other retail outlets and can be used directly from the container with no dilution necessary. Disinfecting with alcohol is preferred for homeowners to most other methods because it is easy to use, easy to find in stores, relatively inexpensive and does not require prolonged soaking.



How do I clean and prepare my garden tools?

Proper care of garden tools and equipment prolongs their life, prevents costly repairs and improves their performance. Remove caked-on soil from shovels, spades, hoes and rakes with a wire brush or stiff putty knife. Wash the tools with a strong stream of water, then dry. Wipe the metal surfaces with an oily rag or spray with WD-40 to help prevent corrosion. Sand rough wooden handles, then wipe with linseed oil to prevent drying and cracking.

Over time, cultivation tools like hoes, shovels and spades get nicked and damaged by stones and soil. Sharpening the blades of cultivation tools will make them easier and safer to use. To sharpen cultivation tools, start by securing the tool by the handle in a bench vise with the front side facing up. Using a metal file, sharpen the

edge by pushing the file away from you across the blade. Hold the file at the same angle during the entire process, using the existing beveled angle at the tool’s edge as a guide. Work slowly and evenly so that a shine appears about one-quarter-inch back from the blade’s edge along the entire edge. Then turn the tool over and remove any burrs from the underside of the blade edge by lightly pushing the metal file away from you with the same smooth and even motion as before. Depending on the amount of use, most cultivation tools only need sharpening once a year.

How do I prepare my lawn mower for spring?

Spring is the best time to service the engine and sharpen the blades to ensure the mower runs smoothly and cleanly cuts the lawn. Start by checking the oil. Some mowers benefit from changing the oil once a year. Others only require the oil to be topped off in the spring. Check your owner’s manual and follow those instructions to check or change the oil. Check all filters, including the air, oil and fuel filters, and clean or replace them as needed. Ideally, the fuel tank was drained or run dry in the fall, but if it wasn’t, it is important to remove the old fuel and replace it with new before starting up the mower for the first time in spring. Check and replace the spark plug every one to three years. A fresh spark plug will allow the engine to run better and start up easier.

Take the opportunity to sharpen the blades and clean the mower deck while the fuel tank is empty. Dull mower blades make the engine work harder and tear or rip grass blades rather than cleanly slicing them. The ragged edge of a grass leaf cut with a dull mower blade will turn brown and allow some disease pathogens to infect the leaf more easily. To remove the blade, wear heavy leather gloves, disconnect the spark plug (or remove the battery on an electric mower), and jam in a short 2x4 to keep the blade from turning. Loosen the bolt at the center of the blade using a socket wrench. It may take some leverage to get it loose! Once removed, you can sharpen the blades yourself or take them to a hardware store or outdoor equipment retailer for sharpening. While the blade is out, this is also the perfect time to clean the mower deck. Use a strong stream of water and a putty knife to remove built-up debris from the underside of the deck and wash or blow leaves and grass from all the other areas of the mower.

Red Oak FFA holds annual banquet



Iowa Degree Recipients were, from left: Lainey DeVries, Cloie Bruce, Bella Glassel, and Stef Medina. (Photo submitted)

The Red Oak FFA Chapter held its annual banquet on March 24. During the event, awards were given to FFA members in a number of categories:

- Academic Achievement Award: Ella Johnson, Tyler Beeson, Hailey Rydberg, Cloie Bruce, Lainey DeVries, Kennedy DeVries, Josie McCunn, Gillian Heim, Caitlin Britten, Natalie Johnson, Brinkly Sallach, Madison Osheim, Will Pollock, Dillan Rydberg, Pace Chaillie, Rylee Etter, and AJ Beeson.
- Chapter Program: Bella Glassel, Ella Johnson, and Cloie Bruce.
- Honorary FFA Member: Al Thole.
- Blue Jacket Award: Cloie Bruce.
- Star Chapter Award: Addey Lydon.
- Public Speaking: Hailey Rydberg.
- Treasurer's Book: Kennedy DeVries.
- Ag Broadcasting: Stef Medina.
- Reporter's Book: Brinkly Sallach and Bella Glassel.
- Future FFA Officer Award: Dillan Rydberg.
- Livestock Judging: Lainey DeVries, Ella Johnson, Kennedy DeVries, Tyler Beeson, AJ Beeson, Cloie Bruce, and Natalie Johnson.
- Iowa Degree Recipients: Lainey DeVries, Cloie Bruce, Bella Glassel, and Stef Medina.
- Chapter Degree Recipients: Kennedy DeVries, Addey Lydon, Hailey Rydberg, Connor Britten, Ella Johnson, Josie McCunn, Brinkly Sallach and Cadence Turnbull.

- Job Interview: Addey Lydon.
- Star Discovery Award: Natalie Johnson.
- Star Greenhand Award: Harley Longnecker.
- Three Musketeers Award: Ella Johnson, Hailey Rydberg, and Josie McCunn, who showed up and worked hard during the year despite injuries.
- Hard Worker Award: Harley Longnecker.
- Secretary's Book: Cloie Bruce.
- Soils competition: Ella Johnson, Addey Lydon, Brinkly Sallach, and Kennedy DeVries.
- Ag Sales: Lainey DeVries.
- Ag Impact: AJ Beeson, Madison Osheim, Natalie Johnson, Pace Chaillie, and Dillan Rydberg.
- Star Greenhand: Harley Longnecker.
- Go With The Flow Award: Ella Johnson.
- Perfect Meeting Attendance Award: Addey Lydon, Cloie Bruce, and Brinkly Sallach.
- Discovery Degree Recipients: AJ Beeson, Pace Chaillie, Dillan Rydberg, Natalie Johnson, Will Pollock, Caitlin Brittain, and Madison Osheim.

Tyler Beeson had the most fruit sales in the junior class and Hailey Rydberg was in second place. Addey Lydon sold the most fruit sales in the sophomore class and Brinkly Sallach took second place.

The 2023-2024 officer team consists of Cloie Bruce, Addey Lydon, Hailey Rydberg, Josie McCunn, Ella Johnson, and Harley Longnecker.

Stanton District holds spring concert



The Stanton School District held its spring music concert March 24. The concert featured performances from the 5th grade through high school bands, the junior high and high school choirs, and members of the community band. (Photo submitted)

New farm to school education program available

Schools in 12 counties in southwest Iowa are encouraged to apply to participate in a new farm to school agriculture education program hosted by the Center for Rural Affairs.

Five K-12 schools will be chosen to begin and/or reinvigorate agriculture education. The schools must be located in Monona, Crawford, Harrison, Shelby, Pottawattamie, Cass, Mills, Montgomery, Fremont, Carroll, Audubon, or Page counties.

"Our goals are to increase access to agriculture and gardening skills for food production and to promote access to healthy, delicious locally grown foods for students and their families," said Cait Caughey, Beginning Farmer and Market Associate with the Center.

Selected schools will receive technical assistance and support on food production and agriculture education through December 2023; farm to school curriculum resources; assistance with accessing Iowa local foods procurement programs; and grant writing assistance on school

garden or greenhouse grants.

Monetary awards include: \$2,000 mini grant for food production, garden, greenhouse, aqua/hydroponics; \$200 for garden tools; \$150 stipend for one teacher to attend the Iowa Farm to School Conference in June; \$150 stipend for one teacher to attend the Southwest Iowa Local Foods Summit in fall 2023; \$200 for one farmer speaker who grows fruits, vegetables, herbs, and/or livestock to visit the school and give a presentation.

There is no cost to apply; applications must be received by 5 p.m. on Friday, April 14. Selected schools will be notified by May 15.

Applications will be evaluated based on school demographics and plan for food production, student involvement, community involvement, sustainability, teacher engagement, food service director collaboration, and creativity.

Visit cfra.org/sw-Iowa-farm-to-school for the application and for more information, or contact Caughey at 402-380-5192 or caite@cfra.org.

VIEWPOINTS

Stronger the Press, Stronger the People

THE TIME CAPSULE | ROY MARSHALL

Popular woman wins 1911 Overland

Who is the most popular woman residing within the loosely defined readership area of our Red Oak Express?

Once presented, the question begs an answer. Is she a school teacher from Villisca? A farm wife from Coburg? The Pork Queen of the most recent county fair? A wealthy socialite on East Hill? Might she be Stanton's Santa Lucia royalty? A high school athlete? A nurse? An efficient waitress in your favorite restaurant? Or the glamorous star of an opera house melodrama?

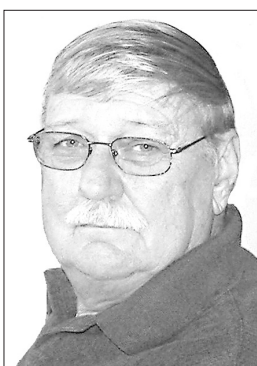
And how do we determine who the special one is?

This newspaper knew how, did so, then presented her with the keys to a luxurious new convertible; a car with all the options, including a powerhouse engine capable of speeds that approached 50 mph. The lady finishing second took home a fine Hobart Cable piano. Third-place was a diamond ring and to the fourth place finisher went a genuine gold watch with a 25-year guarantee.

Four "honorable mentions" each received the clear title to a choice building lot in South Garden City, Kan., and what woman in her right mind wouldn't sell her soul for a building lot in Garden City, Kan.?

Winners were decided in the American way, with an open nomination process followed by a democratic election. Ballots could be cast over a period of several weeks. To assure there was not the slightest hint of voter suppression, any living being capable of making an "X" was encouraged to vote. Official ballots were printed in the newspaper, meaning subscribers could vote repeatedly. Those dedicated to their candidate were offered an additional 300 ballots for \$1.50.

The major difference between this and an actual federal election was that running totals were tabulated by officials of unquestioned integrity, with their findings published in each edition of the Express. This permitted front-runners to know how much stuffing needed to be done, while at the same time shaming candidates who lagged



Thomas D. Murphy

far behind into buying enough votes for a respectable showing.

Thomas D. Murphy, who did a lot more than sell calendars and own a newspaper, deserves a biography; one that includes a few paragraphs describing what must be the costliest and most bizarre contest any Montgomery County paper ever attempted.

The year was 1910. The public was falling in love with automobiles. Murphy already had. He was then engaged in a spare-time project that would lead to the famed "Blue Grass Road," the main motor

route through this area.

Always a promoter, Murphy solicited nominees, urging men to name their wife, daughter and/or mother. Women could nominate themselves and their female friends. When the contest officially began in November, there were 164 official candidates. Each week thereafter the paper featured a front-page article and a full-page ad showing nominees, vote totals, soliciting more of both, listing prizes and the name of the business where each was on display. Although anyone could clip a ballot from the paper and vote, and Murphy represented this as a show of popularity, the women racking up big numbers were those out "hustling," as Murphy called it, gaining 300 votes for each one-year subscription sold.

Husbands, probably less interested in wife's popularity than they were a flashy, 1910 Overland Model 49 Touring Car with a 25-hp motor, plush leather seats and wooden, right-hand steering wheel, paid for subscriptions extending years into the future.

The second prize was also worth working for. A Hobart Cable

piano from the pre-1920 era was a quality instrument that, if taken care of, increased in value. Today a website called "digital piano" lists a good one similar to the prize at \$22,000.

The contest closed at 10 p.m. Jan. 28, 1911, and Murphy continued his flamboyant drama to the very end. At 9 p.m. the regular "curfew siren" sounded, telling children it was time to get off the streets and adults that only an hour remained to buy votes. Red Oak's power company night operator then blew one blast at 9:55 p.m. A crowd of over 100 people was clustered outside the Express office on that cold night, and more ballots were cast. At exactly 9:59:30 the siren wailed down the final half-minute—30 seconds to stuff the last flurry of paid for votes into the box, and then the counting began.

Judges knew the tally up until the final week. At that time Mrs. Carl (Nell) Oliver of Red Oak was nearly 400,000 votes ahead of her nearest competitor, so contests yet to be decided were for prizes other than the car. Mrs. Ida Reynolds of Elliott received 306,000 votes and won the piano. Other winners were Ruth Jackson of Red Oak, Mrs. Walter Jackson of Rt. 6, Hazel Dell Cain of Henderson, Fannie Lathrom of Red Oak, Solma Larson of Stanton won a building lot in Garden City, as did Cleo Fisher and Mamie Peterson.

Given the amount Murphy spent on prizes (\$1,700, or about \$54,000 in today's money), it's hard to imagine a profit. He, in fact, wrote later that "there wasn't a lot of velvet," but he also described the experience as being "satisfactory in every way."

This paper will not see another owner comparable to T.D. Murphy, who apparently had a few lots in Garden City, Kan., he wanted rid of.

Roy Marshall is a local historian and columnist for the Red Oak Express. He can be contacted at news@redoakexpress.com.

Letters to the Editor

The Red Oak Express supports healthy community discourse and encourages readers to submit a letter to the editor. Letters must be signed and include a phone number for verification purposes. They can be submitted by mail or dropped off at 2012 Commerce Drive, Red Oak, Iowa, 51566, or emailed to news@redoakexpress.com, or entered through our website at redoakexpress.com. Letters should be concise and centered on a single topic. All letters are subject to editing for length, taste, accuracy, liability, or other reasons. The Express is under no obligation to print any letter. If you have questions, contact the Express office at 712-623-2566 or news@redoakexpress.com.

DEADLINES

Newspaper Inserts: Noon Wednesdays.
Submitted News Items and Letters: 4 p.m. Thursdays.
Public Notices: 4 p.m. Thursdays.
Display & Classified Display Advertising: 4 p.m. Wednesdays.
Classified Line Ads/Garage Sale Ads: 10 a.m. Thursdays.
Obituaries: 9 a.m. Mondays.

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Single copies are \$1.50 each and available at (in Red Oak unless speci-

fied): Red Oak Express; Casey's (Red Oak, Stanton, Villisca, Griswold); Cubby's; E-Stop (Emerson); Fareway; Hy-Vee; Hy-Vee Wine &

Spirits; United Farmers Cooperative. Single copy sales are also available from a coin rack in front of the Red Oak Express.



Community Calendar

6 April

8 a.m.-noon, Leadership Red Oak.
8:30-10 a.m. Veterans Coffee Social, Rainbow Cafe', 105 W. Market St. Coffee provided
12:30 p.m., Bingo, Red Oak Senior Center, 2700 N. 4th St. Call 712-623-3497 or Carolyn at 402-926-8683 for more information.
4 p.m., Community Prayer Time, Fountain Square Park. Call Bonnie at 623-4759.
7 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1101 Summit St.

7 April

Red Oak Public Library, Popcorn Friday, all day.
10-11 a.m., Core 52 Bible study at the Red Oak Presbyterian Church, 511 E. Coolbaugh St.
10:15 a.m., Storytime at the Red Oak Public Library, 400 N. 2nd St., theme: "Egg Day."
1 p.m., First Friday Friends, Coming Opera House, 800 Davis Ave., see story on this page for further details.
5:30 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1101 Summit St.
7 p.m., "Shazam! Fury of the Gods," theatre #1; "Creed 3," theatre #2; Red Oak Grand Theatre.

8 April

8-9:45 a.m., Breakfast with the Bunny, Five One 8, 518 N. 4th St. see story on this page for further details.
10 a.m. Red Oak Rotary annual Easter egg hunt, Fountain Square Park.
10-10:45 a.m., Parent-Tot swim lessons for kids ages 6 months to 3 years at the Montgomery County Family YMCA.
7 p.m., "Shazam! Fury of the Gods," theatre #1; "Creed 3," theatre #2; Red Oak Grand Theatre.

9 April

2 and 7 p.m., "Shazam! Fury of the Gods," theatre #1; "Creed 3," theatre #2; Red Oak Grand Theatre.
5:30 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1101 Summit St.

10 April

12:30 p.m. Bingo, Red Oak Senior Center, 2700 N. 4th St. Call 712-623-3497 or Carolyn at 402-926-8683 for more information.
6 p.m. Broadband town hall, Red Oak Library, 400 N. 2nd St.
7 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1101 Summit St.

11 April

8:30 a.m., Montgomery County Supervisors, North Meeting Room in courthouse basement, open to public.
9-11 a.m., Intro to pickleball at the Montgomery County Family YMCA, 101 E. Cherry St. Equipment provided. .
Noon, Rotary Club meeting. For location, go to rotarydistrict5650.org/clubinfo/red-oak.
1 p.m., Card games (pitch and/or cribbage) Red Oak Senior Center, 2700 N. 4th St. Call 712-623-3497 or Carolyn at 402-926-8683 for more information.
2-3:30 p.m., Journeys Grief Support Group, Faith Community Church, 2701 N. 8th St.

12 April

1:30-5 p.m., Christ's Cupboard Food Pantry and Clothing Cupboard, 206 E. Coolbaugh St. Donations accepted 1-5 p.m. at back door.
9:30 a.m., Mock trial at the Montgomery County Courthouse, see story on page for information.



Food pantry donation

The 3 through 11 year olds and the Prime Timers from Faith Community Church built breakfast meal kits and after school snack kits for families and kids at the Christ's Cupboard Food Pantry! Pictured are, from left: Lori Johnson, Karen Gregory, and Jack Gregory. (Photo submitted)

Storytime dates at Red Oak Library

The public is invited to the Red Oak Public Library for storytime for the next four Fridays at 10:15 a.m. this month in the children's department of the Red Oak Public Library, 400 N. 2nd St.
Everyone is welcome to participate in the fun of stories,

crafts, and snacks, and everything is free.

Themes for April are as follows:

April 7: Egg Day
April 14: Potato
April 21: Sun
April 28: Flowers

Mock trial scheduled for April 12 in RO

The public is invited to observe a mock trial scenario at the Montgomery County Courthouse on April 12.

The trial will begin at 9:30 a.m. and feature 10 home-schooled students who have been preparing for the trial for the past year.

Easter events at the Red Oak square

Two Easter events are slated in and around Fountain Square Park on April 8.
The Red Oak Police Department and the Red Oak Fire Department are hosting a "Breakfast with the Bunny" event from 8 to 9:45 a.m. at the Five One 8 at 518 N. 4th St.
The departments invite families and their children to attend the event. Pancakes, sausage, coffee, and orange juice will be

served.
A free-will donation will be accepted. Proceeds raised will benefit future activities with the community and first responders.
Following the breakfast, at 10 a.m. in Fountain Square Park, the Red Oak Rotary Club is hosting its annual Easter egg hunt.
The event is open to children up to 10 years of age. Individual age groups are: 0-3, 4-5, 6-7, and 8-10.

First Friday Friends event April 7

The Corning Opera House at 800 Davis Ave. in Corning will host is First Friday Friends event at 1 p.m. April 7.
This month, the speaker is Cheryl Mullenbach, who will speak on the topic: "Iowa's mis-

behaving women."
Subtopics include: women in the trenches, selling cigars, riverboat captains, and others. Cost to attend is \$10. More information at comingoperahouse.com.

BATES 60TH ANNIVERSARY



Jerry and Diane Bates of Grant will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary April 14. In honor of the occasion, the family is hosting a card shower. Send cards to the couple at P.O. Box 186, Grant, IA 50847.

Happy Birthday!

Celebrating birthdays are:

Kira Headley – April 7
Denise Mardesen – April 7
Darwin "Pete" Peterson – April 7
Isaac Birt – April 8
Mike Webb – April 9
Danny Olson – April 9
Ed Wilkins – April 10
Jaydan Gilliland – April 10
Maci Graber - April 11
Morgan Graber – April 11
Kim Fries–Douthit – April 11
Jack Davis – April 12
Jerry Shaver – April 12

To be included on the free "Happy Birthday" list, e-mail your birthday (and those of your friends and family) to news@redoakexpress.com, mail to P.O. Box 377, Red Oak, IA 51566, or drop by our office at 2012 Commerce Dr.

Senior Menu

Thursday, April 6: Easter meal, glazed ham, au gratin potatoes, savory sliced carrots, dinner roll, Jell-O cake, beverage mix, milk/coffee.
Friday, April 7: Closed to commemorate Easter.

Monday, April 10: Polish sausage with sauerkraut on a hot dog bun, whipped potatoes, mixed vegetables, fruit cocktail cake, beverage mix, milk/coffee.
Tuesday, April 11: Chicken Alfredo pasta, green beans, stewed

tomatoes, garlic bread stick, baked cookie, beverage mix, milk/coffee.
April 12: Hamburger patty on a bun, roasted red potatoes, baked beans, cherry gelatin, beverage mix, milk/coffee.
For more information, call the

Senior Center at 623-3497 or Carolyn at 402-926-8683.
Please call for reservations by 9:30 a.m. the day before you plan to eat lunch.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Advent Christian

300 S. 2nd Ave., Villisca, Rev. Jeff Eason, Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:30 a.m., Celebrate Recovery, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

Assembly Of God

1005 Senate, Red Oak, 623-2174, Services, 10:30 a.m.

Baptist

The Bridge (First Baptist Church), 406 N. 3rd St., Red Oak, Rev. Len Taylor, Worship, 11 a.m.
Grace Baptist, 1510 N. 6th St., Red Oak, Gary D. Walters, Bible class, 10 a.m., Worship, 11 a.m., Worship, 6 p.m.; Wednesday, Prayer, 7 p.m.
Grace Baptist, 525 Main St., Griswold, Victor Maxson, Bible study, 10 a.m., Worship, 11 a.m. **Online:** 11 a.m. livestream.

Southern Baptist

Crossroads Community Church, 303 E. Oak St., use the alley entrance, Rev. Ricky Rohrig, Sr., Celebration Services with Kids' Church, 9:23 a.m., Wednesdays in the Word, live on Facebook, 6:30 p.m. 712-357-1060, crossroadsredoak.com. **Online:** 9:45 a.m. approx. live on Facebook.

Catholic

St. Joseph's, 131 W. High, Villisca, Father Sylvester Okoh, Sunday

Mass, 8:30 a.m.
St. Mary's, 1510 Highland Ave., Red Oak, Father Lazarus Kirigia, Saturdays, 5 p.m. (1st, 3rd, 5th Saturday); Sunday, 10:30 a.m., in Spanish, 1 p.m.

Christian

First Christian, 1909 Summit St., Red Oak, Pastor AJ Baratta, PreKindergarten - Sunday School, 9:30-10:15 a.m., Fellowship, 10 a.m., Worship, 10:30 a.m. **Online:** 10:30 a.m. live on Facebook.

Christian & Missionary Alliance

Citylight Southwest Iowa, 705 Bradford, Emerson. Co-lead pastors Matt Keller, Tyler Mass. Worship with children's church, 10 a.m. in-person gathering. **Online:** 10 a.m. live on Facebook.
Faith Community, 2701 N. 8th St., Red Oak, Pastor Dan Wetzel, Associate Pastor Stephen Beaulier, Worship, 9:30 a.m. Connection Classes for pre-kindergarten-adults, 11 a.m., Wednesday activities: Faith Kids, Pre-K grade 4, 6-7:30 p.m. Faith Midpoint, grades 5-6, 6-7:30 p.m. Faith Youth, grades 7-12, 7-8:30 p.m. **Online:** 9:30 a.m. on KCSI, 9:30 a.m. on Facebook.

Church Of Christ

Church Of Christ, Elliott, Sunday Bible School, 9 a.m., Worship, 10 a.m., Men's and Women's Bible study and breakfast, first Sunday of the month at 7:30 a.m.
River of Life Church, Hwy. 48 North, Red Oak, Interim Minister Kevin Berry, Sunday School 9 a.m., Worship, 10 a.m.

Church Of the Nazarene

Red Oak, 401 E. Prospect St., Rev. Lori Lathrop. Radio ministry, 8:30 a.m., worship with children's church at 10:30 a.m.

Covenant

Evangelical, Rev. Matt King, 308 Eastern, Stanton, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:45 a.m. **Online:** 10:45 a.m. live on Facebook and later on Youtube.
Faith Covenant Church, 212 Alice St., Essex, Pastor Gordon Scott, Pastor Staci Shearer, Worship, 8:30 a.m.
First Covenant, Rev. Alan Dean, pastor, 3rd & Hammond, Red Oak, Worship, 9:30 a.m.

Jehovah's Witness

210 Argus Road, Shenandoah, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m., public Bible discourse.

Lutheran

Bethesda Lutheran, Rural Clarinda. Worship 9:30 a.m. Worship, Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
Bethlehem Lutheran, 1101 Summit St., Red Oak, Rev. Jennifer Yeske-Drown, Sunday worship, 11 a.m.
Strand Evangelical, Rural Villisca, Rev. Marietta Nelson-Bittle, Worship, 9:45 a.m.
Fremont Lutheran (Nyman), 1147 Ironwood Ave, Red Oak, Pastor Ann Albert, Worship, 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.
Mamrelund Lutheran, 410 Eastern Ave., Stanton. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. **Online:** 10:30 a.m. FMTC Cable Channel 1, also live on Facebook.
Mt. Calvary, 107 S. 5th, Villisca, Jerome Wagoner, Worship, 9:00 a.m.
Tabor Lutheran, 1711 Q Ave., Stanton, Worship, 8:15 a.m., Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.
Peace Lutheran, (A WELS Congregation), 411 Church St., Shenandoah, Saturday Worship, 5:30 p.m.; Bible and Sunday School, 6:30 p.m.

Non-Denominational

Oaks Community Church, 41310 Ellington Rd., Emerson, Rev. Ron Perry, 712-824-7218, Sunday School, 10 a.m., Worship, 11 a.m.

Presbyterian

Center Ridge, 1546 N. 110th St., Red Oak, Caryn Pedersen, Worship 1 p.m., two times a month. Call 623-9023 for more information.
First Presbyterian, 109 S. 3rd Ave., Villisca, Rev. Sandra Wainwright, Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:30 a.m.
Red Oak Presbyterian, 511 E. Coolbaugh, PO Box 402, Red Oak, Caryn Pedersen, redoakpresbyterianchurch.com, Service, 10:30 a.m. **Online:** 10:30 a.m. live on Facebook/Red Oak Presbyterian Church

Reformed Evangelical

Heartland Sovereign Grace Church, new church plant. Bible study Sunday, 5 p.m., www.swiacrec.com, contact@swiacrec.com.

United Methodist

First United Methodist, 600 E. Hammond, Red Oak, Rev. Jennifer Van Nostrand, Worship, Sunday, 9 a.m.; Youth group Wednesday 6:30-8 p.m., grades 6-12, snack is served. **Online:** 9 a.m. fumcro.org; click on the media tab to see previously recorded services.
Wesley Chapel UMC, Rev. Joni Hickey, M16 north off Hwy. 34 then west on Epperson. 624-8320. strahaniowachurch.org Worship, 8:30 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

Red Oak Circuit, Linda Westerhold; Hawthorne, 1248 210th St., Red Oak, Worship, 10 a.m.; Stratton, 1695 150th St., Red Oak, Worship, 11:15 a.m. **Online:** 11:15 a.m. live on Facebook.

Elliott United Methodist, Rev. Terry McClain, Sunday School, 9 a.m., Worship, 10 a.m. **Online:** 10 a.m. live on Facebook.
Emerson United Methodist Church, Rev. Denise Stevens, 801 Bradford Ave., Emerson, (712) 824-7368, Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Grant United Methodist, Pastor Casey Pelzer, Worship services, 8:30 a.m. **Online:** 8:30 a.m. live on Facebook
United Methodist, 203 S. 3rd Ave., Villisca, Pastor Jennifer Van Nostrand, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:45 a.m. **Online:** 10:45 a.m. live on Facebook.
Strahan United Methodist, Five miles south of Hastings on M16., strahaniowachurch.org, Rev. Joni Hickey, Sunday Worship service 9:45 a.m. Adult and children's Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

United Church Of Christ

First Congregational, 608 Reed St., Red Oak, Sunday Worship, 11:30 a.m. in the sanctuary with fellowship prior to the service at 10:30 a.m.. Rev. Holly Scherff, interim pastor.

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Kid Scoop Together

Lookalike Lights

All but one of these flashlights has an identical twin. Can you match each pair and reveal the one unique flashlight? Have a family member try!

The image displays 18 flashlights, each with unique characteristics such as different handle textures (ribbed, smooth, knurled), lens shapes (circular, rectangular), button locations (top, side, tail), and accessories like carabiners. The flashlights are arranged in a vertical column, providing a visual challenge to identify the one without a pair.


Double Double Word Search

CAVE
CAVERN
COLUMN
COOL
COW
DEEP
EARTH
FORM
HOLE
SLOWLY
STONE
STUDIES
TUNNELS
WATER
YEARS

Find the words in the puzzle.
How many of them can you
find on this page?


H	O	L	E	B	F	C	S	F	F
S	E	I	D	U	T	S	O	O	A
T	U	N	N	E	L	S	R	O	T
S	R	A	E	Y	X	M	E	W	L
W	A	T	E	R	H	C	C	D	D
Q	E	Z	D	T	E	A	O	E	E
W	O	C	R	V	K	V	L	N	E
W	M	A	A	G	I	E	U	O	P
B	E	C	S	M	P	R	M	T	W
Y	L	W	O	L	S	N	N	S	U

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.



What do you call it when a stalagmite and a stalactite bump into each other in the center of a cave?

ANSWER: A stala-fight.

Write On! 

If I Lived Underground

Imagine that you lived in an underground cave. What would it be like? Write about it!

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Alfstad joins podcast about Iowa’s natural hidden gems

Nick Johansen
The Red Oak Express

A special nature-made podcast for every walk of life to enjoy, co-hosted by a very familiar name to Montgomery County residents, is currently available for listeners on iHeart radio and other platforms.

The podcast, known as “Crossing Streams,” features Montgomery County Conservation naturalist Cassandra Alfstad, under the name “Crittter Cass” and Tony Vorwald under the name “Tallgrass Tony.” Vorwald is a naturalist at Hurstville Interpretive Center in Maquoketa in Jackson County. The podcast, which started with a pilot on Feb. 2, was conceived in part from an idea from Alfstad.

“Tony and I met at an Iowa Association of Naturalists summer conference in Minnesota, and we were sitting around the campfire and I mentioned the idea. At the end of the night, when we were all sort of going our separate ways, Tony stuck around and was asking me more questions about it and offered to help me get started and said he’d be willing to talk with me if I wanted. At that point, that was what I really needed: a co-host,” Alfstad said.

Vorwald said he was a fan of podcasts, and being able to co-host “Crossing Streams” was a culmination of his own goal, said a podcast himself.

“While I thought of doing my own podcast of my own over the years, I never did it. When Cassandra started talking about it, it clicked. It’s more her idea than mine, but it sounded fun and I definitely glommed onto it,” Vorwald said.

Being able to have Vorwald as a co-host, Alfstad said, made putting the podcast together a much more attainable goal.

“The reason I didn’t do anything sooner was because I felt just me talking, with inconsistent guests, wouldn’t be as grasping to an audience as a podcast with two hosts who can talk to each other as well as guests. Tony and I use Zoom, so we can see each other on camera and talk to each other, and when we welcome guests on, it just helps keep the flow going,” advised Alfstad.

Another thing that makes the process trickier is the fact that Alfstad and Vorwald are in different counties and aren’t physically in the same room when recording.

“Zoom is super helpful in allowing us to have these conversations. When it comes to putting everything together, my father, Dave Alfstad, has been a major help. Growing up, he had a recording studio in his basement, and he is a musician, and he is fantastic with audio editing and recording, and has become our producer and audio editor,” Alfstad explained. “My dad helps bridge the gap between our respective distances and helps figure out good audio quality and recording quality, and we’re having Zoom sessions with him to figure out how to streamline the audio quality even more so it sounds like we’re truly recording in person together. Dad was also able to equip me with some pretty nice recording equipment, so in my at-home set-up, I’m not just recording it onto my computer, I’m going through an actual podcast recording device that is hooked up to two microphones.”

Alfstad added that the podcast is the first of its kind, not only for the Montgomery County Conservation area, but for the county in general, saying she’s not met anyone else who has done something like this in the county. Vorwald said it was the first of its kind for Jackson County as well.

“As far as a conservation-style podcast through our department, it hasn’t been done before. As far as in Jackson County as a whole, I’m sure someone has done a podcast or tried to at some point and time, but I’m not currently aware of one going on right now, and definitely not one that is nature-oriented,” commented Vorwald.

One of the goals of the podcast, Alfstad said, is to highlight Iowa’s conservation system as a whole, as well as the hidden gems.

“It’s not exclusively limited to Montgomery County or Jackson County. We’ve been highlighting parks and wildlife areas from all over the place, and showing there’s much more to Iowa than just crops and fields,” Alfstad said.

The pilot episode focused on an introduction of Alfstad and Vorwald, and how they became naturalists and their roles. The second episode featured comments from Savannah Maiers from Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center in Minnesota, and the March 3 episode focused on the affordability of outdoor adventures and equipment needed for fishing, kayaking, and camping/backpacking. Vorwald said they have plenty of ideas for future episodes as well.

“One of the topics we want to hit on is prescribed fire and its use as a management tool on conservation land in Iowa. Other ones could be planting native prairie in urban landscaping as a garden to help out pollinators. We’re also looking at topics such as trips and experiences people have had. The list is ever growing of future topics for future episodes,” Vorwald explained.

Alfstad added they are also open to ideas and involvement from those that listen to the podcast or love the outdoors.

“We’re open to any ideas. We can be reached at thecrossingstreamspodcast@gmail.com. What we’re working for with our podcast is that even if people aren’t involved in conservation at all, it will still be a fun thing to tune in and listen to,” stated Alfstad. “Tony and I try to keep it pretty casual when we talk, and if we use some lingo that people might not be familiar with, we’re pretty good with tying back and explaining what that is so anyone can hop into the field of conservation.”

Vorwald agreed, saying he himself enjoys podcasts that are very conversational, like a conversation between friends, rather than extremely technical, so it can be enjoyed by a broader audience.

With multiple episodes now in the can, Alfstad said she’s been getting praise for the quality of the podcasts.

“I’ve heard from people I know in some social aspect, and teachers who have listened to it, and they’ve all said they enjoyed it and it was fun listening to us talk,” said Alfstad.

As for people he’s spoken to in Jackson County and the surrounding area, Vorwald said he’s heard similar praise.

“A lot of people I’ve talked to are very encouraging and enthusiastic about this endeavor. My director found out about the podcast and listened to it without me even telling him I was doing it, so that was interesting. Everything so far has been positive. I once heard it said that you don’t get your handle on being in a podcast until you’ve done around 100 episodes. I’m not sure how true that is or isn’t, but I’m excited to see, through time and as we continue on, how our flow changes and our audio gets better, and how our little nuances and techniques improve as we get further and further experienced with doing it,” Vorwald said.

Alfstad said she sees the podcast being something that she and Vorwald do for a very long time, as it’s not time-consuming. Vorwald also saw a long-term future for the podcast.

“I think it’s awesome, and I don’t see why this couldn’t be a long-term project that lasts for who knows how long. I don’t want to put an end date on it,” Vorwald stated.

Currently, the show is recorded and published twice per month, though Alfstad said she would like to expand to having a new episode drop once per week on Thursdays. Vorwald also said he’s shooting for an episode once a week.

The crossing streams podcast is available on almost all streaming platforms except for Apple podcasts, including buzzsprout.com/2127006, iheart.com/podcast/269-crossing-streams-108221091/?fbclid=IwAR2lhqATyTrvCfVb1139uMscSNBBuDUANF7xJH3mVnWRWzA_LmmHrOUZce4, and youtube.com/@thecrossingstreamspodcast.

Alfstad said they also have an instagram account, thecrossingstreamspodcast/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y%3D.



Montgomery County Conservation naturalist Cassandra Alfstad at her recording set-up for the “Crossing Streams” podcast. The show airs twice monthly on most major platforms. (Photo submitted)

Final five year secondary road plans approved by supervisors

Nick Johansen
The Red Oak Express

The Montgomery County Board of supervisors have approved the final five year roads plan proposed by the Montgomery County Secondary Roads Department.

County engineer Karen Albert met with the supervisors to present the plan during the regular meeting on March 28. Albert said things still were a bit up in the air.

“The plan is somewhat fluid, but hopefully by the next fiscal year, we’ll be able to do what we have proposed in the plan,” commented Albert.

For 2024, Albert said the first project planned was replacement of the Beeson bridge located on 250th Street west of G Avenue over the East Nishnabotna River.

“We’re waiting on the funding agreement with the Iowa Department of Transportation. We were told in February it would take three to four months to get that funding agreement to us. If I don’t hear anything by mid-April, I will contact IDOT and find out where that funding agreement is,” stated Albert. “We do have permits from IDOT at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. We are also planning a river access at that site: a concrete ramp for boaters and kayakers. The landowner said he is okay with it, and we have gotten permit approval.”

Also in 2024, a bridge replacement is planned for the bridge on L Avenue south of the railroad bridge in Scott Township.

“We’re planning on replacing that with a couple of culvert pipes. We have run into a bit of an issue with the Corps of Engineers due to the new mitigation rules, but we’ve had some phone conversations with them on ways to bring the pipes in together and reduce any mitigation costs. We’re continuing to work with them, as replacing the bridge with pipe is a more economical way of replacing the bridge,” advised Albert.

The final project for 2024 was the east overlay and widening project for H-34. Albert said the project has been in the program for quite awhile.

“It appears that we’re going to have the funds available to move forward with letting for this project. It’s been a long process, and it’s been on the list since I got here, which was five years ago. We’re crossing our fingers, and so far things look good,” Albert said.

Projects for 2025 include the replacement of a bridge on 210th Street that has been closed.

“Right now we are tentatively planning on replacing that bridge with a low water crossing,” Albert said.

Also, in Pilot Grove Township on 120th Street, a

triple pipe is scheduled for replacement.

The third 2025 project is work on the railroad bridge on Q Avenue.

“We’re hopeful that we’ll be able to work with the railroad and get that bridge let for replacement. It might be a little hopeful, but we have the project on there,” Albert commented.

Projects in 2026 included an overlay on M47 north, and a pavement replacement on H12. The third project was a bridge replacement on G Avenue.

“We’re talking about possibly replacing that with a box culvert, but that’s kind of up in the air due to the new Army Corps of Engineers regulations, but for right now, we’ve got it in the plan and we’re hopeful we can do that.

Another 2026 project was on G Avenue over Walnut Creek, replacement of a culvert with a twin box culvert. The final project was work on the railroad bridge on L Avenue.

“This project, as well as other railroad projects would depend on the negotiations we have with the railroad,” explained Albert.

For 2027, Albert said they are planning a bridge replacement on W Avenue, as well as a bridge replacement on H34.

Moving to the final year, 2028, Albert said they are planning an overlay on county road M63.

“We’re looking to do an essential overlay on the north, central, and south portions of the road, and an overlay of the road that goes to Viking Lake. There are no bridges planned for 2028, but again, this plan is fluid, and it changes every year as we see where our needs are,” stated Albert.

Supervisors Chair Mike Olson said that the Corps of Engineers regulations that were affecting the culvert projects was the reinstitution of certain aspects of the Waters of the United States Act.

“What it means at the local level is that we can only disturb 0.03 acres of stream bed. To put a tube in, you can’t do that. I’ve made phone calls, and have heard back from Sen. Ernsts office, and it seems that this is a done deal, and reading between the lines, we’re going to have to live with it,” Olson said. “She’s heard complaints from all 99 counties.”

Albert said that unless the crews can find an alternative, in some cases, they may have to replace a bridge with a bridge, which would mean more costs to the county.

Olson said the reinstatement of the act is already affecting Montgomery County, and it would remain to be seen how much. The five year roads plan was approved as preented.

The supervisors also approved the secondary roads Iowa Department of Transportation budget for FY 2023-24. Albert said it was the same as the budget submitted to the county, at \$5,695,000.



Great job, Bodhi

Bodhi Lennox, pictured, recently donated funds he raised from a Gatorade fundraiser to Christ’s Cupboard in Red Oak. He donated the money Wednesday, March 29. (Photo provided)

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Norris continues quest against proposed carbon pipeline

Nick Johansen
The Red Oak Express

Rural Red Oak resident Jan Norris was once again present at the March 28 meeting of the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors to urge them to act on the proposed carbon pipeline ordinance.

The ordinance has been pending since Feb. 28, following the first public hearing. The supervisors took no action after concerns were raised. Among the concerns voiced was from Montgomery County Board of Adjustment Chairman Rick Taylor, who questioned the policy of conditional use permits for landowners being approved at a regular public hearing of the board of adjustment. Taylor cited that the board did not meet on a regular basis and the sheer number of permits could become taxing for the all-volunteer board.

Norris was present to share some news regarding the Summit Carbon Solutions project that had taken place in the Iowa legislature.

"With nearly a three quarter majority, the Iowa House passed a bill requiring 90% voluntary participation before allowing eminent domain to be used on pipeline projects, making this a rare issue that 78% of all Iowans agree on," Norris said. "While not perfect, something is better than nothing, and I appreciate their efforts. I ask you to join me in asking the Iowa Senate to bring it forward immediately."

Norris added that it had been more than a month since the pipeline ordinance had been brought forth in a public hearing, and she urged the supervisors to move quickly to put the ordinance back on the agenda, as she believed routes were being laid out without proper clarification.

"This weekend, I got a call from someone whose house is right over the Mills County line. He guessed the pipeline would be a couple of hundred feet from his home. His neighbors had not told him, and he found out elsewhere. They are just one more example of why we need this ordinance before it's too late," commented Norris.

Norris was invited to speak at a pipeline town hall meeting in Oakland. Norris said the statement that brought the biggest audience reaction was the reading of a disclaimer in a DIS study the biofuels industry paid for.

"The disclaimer stated while they used every attempt to obtain the most accurate data, they made no representation to the accuracy or completeness. While the project does include some estimates, it cannot be ascertained with any certainty the extent to which these estimates are entirely accurate," stated Norris.

Norris also shared that the board of adjustment was holding a meeting with the author of the pipeline ordinance, Ahlers & Cooney attorney Tim Whipple, to have the concerns expressed on Feb. 28 answered.

Board of adjustment Chairman Rick Taylor said following the meeting, which was held in a closed session, he and the other members of the board felt more confident moving forward.

"The meeting went fine, and a lot of questions were asked of Whipple. We still have a few concerns about the mechanism of it, but this is new territory for all of us, and the board has never been faced with a project of this magnitude," Taylor explained. "The project has almost 30 miles crossing our county and affecting many landowners. But I think what we decided was that we have to proceed, and in some form or manner, there must be an ordinance, there's no disagreement with that. It's simply down to the way the ordinance is going to be interpreted and the responsibilities faced by the board of adjustment for the county."

Depending on action over the next few months, Taylor said there was still the possibility that their concerns may become moot.

"It all depends on the outcome of the Shelby County lawsuit against Summit Carbon Solutions. Depending on how that turns out, the board may not have to face any decisions, but on the other hand, the board was able to get questions answered and we are prepared for what we need to do if the ordinance is indeed adopted by Montgomery County, and aware of what our duties and responsibilities are," advised Taylor.

Taylor said that included handling applications from landowners and Summit Carbon Solutions,

which was the proper procedure if the project were to go ahead.

Now that the meeting with Whipple has taken place, Taylor doesn't see any further discussions between the board of adjustment and the Montgomery County Zoning Board.

"It's pretty well done at this point in time. I had some desire for it to go back to the zoning board, but the board and Whipple both felt that, at present, the ordinance should be adopted as proposed, and changes could be made to it down the road if needed. We're going to have to test the waters and see how effective it is in the real world," Taylor commented. "The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors will have to make a decision to approve the ordinance as written, or send it back to the planning and zoning board. If there are applications."

Taylor said he'd been on the board of adjustment for 42 years, and admitted that he'd never seen a project of this scope and nature that affected so many landowners in Montgomery County.

"It's a large undertaking for a small, volunteer board like mine, and a big responsibility, but we've received some assurances that we will get some assistance in the form of county officials, engineers, and inspectors that if the ordinance is adopted, to determine if the Summit Carbon Solutions pipeline complies with the ordinance as written," Taylor stated.

they would support an increase to the Medicaid rate for mental health services, as 2014 was the last time the rates were increased, and other surrounding states had higher Medicaid reimbursement rates than Iowa.

Moore said that funding conversation would be part of the appropriations committee, which he currently did not serve on, but that conversations about an increase had taken place.

Shipley made the promise to speak with the chair of the appropriations committee and make sure it was being looked at.

Shipley was asked how his meeting with the railroads went, in which he said it went well.

"We had county engineers there, and they were glad to finally be able to have a discussion. The conversation largely centered on the railroads taking responsibility of their property, though it remains to be seen what their attitudes will be about addressing some of this stuff," advised Shipley.

Shipley also stated that actions on his bills remained ongoing, and some were being now addressed at the federal level. Still, he was pleased.

"I wanted to get their attention, and we did, and we still have it. All of my bills got out of committee, and they are still live to generate further conversations. The bill requiring signal lights and arms on every crossing they have would cost millions, and that will keep their attention," Shipley said.

Shipley also said it had yet to be determined whether the same number of legislative coffees would be held during the next legislative session, or if any of them would be, due to the behavior of attendees, not in Montgomery County but of other legislative coffees they had held this year.

"We've had a couple forums that were absolutely out of control, and I've told everybody since that if that's what they're going to do, we're not going to do them. This is my 24th, and nobody else I've found in the Capitol puts the same number on," Shipley said. "We may rethink this whole thing after we get done, and decide how many we're going to do next year, if we do them. I don't have any problem with doing a number of them like we have been doing, but those unruly forums were completely uncalled for. So we will see what happens when we begin the next legislative session."

LEGISLATIVE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

the city with whatever decision it chose to make, and she urged the city to take more time before it made a decision about potentially pursuing municipal garbage collection and recycling services.

Councilperson Scott Keith, who has daughters in Omaha and Council Bluffs who use municipal garbage collection, said that he had heard from both that it was problematic.

Lester said she wished to learn more about the demand for recycling before the council considered a pursuit of municipal recycling collection.

Councilperson Tim Fridolph said he wasn't comfortable on taking action on either option without more information.

"I feel like further discussion is warranted. I'm not in favor of putting out a request for proposal right now, and I don't feel like we have enough information," said Fridolph. "Nothing has been prepared, and when I saw this was just for discussion, I didn't have any plans to take action at all."

Bruce reiterated that if the city needed any help at all, she would be glad to help.

Further discussions on the services are slated for a future council meeting.

Essex Fire and Rescue and the Essex Firefighters association held its annual fish and chicken fry fundraiser on March 25 and had a record turnout. During the event, Riley Graham, pictured above right, was named the first ever EMS Person of the Year for the department by Essex Fire Chief Todd Franks, left. Also receiving an award, but not pictured, was Ritchie Diehl, who was named the first ever Firefighter of the Year for the Essex Fire Department. (Photo submitted)

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Graham, Diehl honored

Essex Fire and Rescue and the Essex Firefighters association held its annual fish and chicken fry fundraiser on March 25 and had a record turnout. During the event, Riley Graham, pictured above right, was named the first ever EMS Person of the Year for the department by Essex Fire Chief Todd Franks, left. Also receiving an award, but not pictured, was Ritchie Diehl, who was named the first ever Firefighter of the Year for the Essex Fire Department. (Photo submitted)

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RED OAK GRAND THEATRE

MONTHLY BUSINESS PARTNER SPOTLIGHT!

Brower Home Improvement 712-623-3892

APRIL 7-9

THEATRE #1 capacity is 182

SHAZAM! FURY OF THE GODS PG 13 Billy and his fellow foster kids are learning how to juggle teenage life with their adult superhero egos. Shazam and his allies battle to save the world.

THEATRE #2 capacity is 107

CREED 3 PG 13 Adonis Creed must face-off with a former friend and it is more than just a fight. It is to settle the score.

SHOWTIMES FRI, SAT & SUN 7 PM SUN MATINEE 2 PM

ALL TICKETS \$2.00 712-623-3169

2023 Ladies Night Out

MURDER at 34 Saloon FRIDAY APRIL 14, 2023 STADIUM 34

5:00PM SOCIAL | 6:00PM MYSTERY BEGINS

An Interactive Wild West Murder Mystery presented by The Rotary Club of Red Oak

\$25 per person or \$175 for a table of 8
\$30 per person at the door

Menu: Beer & Beef Stew, Green Beans, Corn Bread, and Peach Cobbler

Order tickets by April 10, 2023

For more information call: 712-249-8346 Red Oak Rotary

Introducing Hospice Care at Red Oak Rehab & Care Center

We have a new suite with all the comforts of home!

Receive all the care provided by our skilled nursing facility PLUS the benefit of services provided by a local Hospice Team!

Please contact Administrator Cheryl Runyan for more information.

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